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FM AMEMBASSY RIYADH  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4432  
INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEAORC/HQ ICE IAO WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 RIYADH 000347

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DEPT FOR S/CT FRED VOGEL AND CA ALCY FRELICK

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/06/2017  
TAGS: [KVPR](#) [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [CVIS](#) [ASEC](#) [KHLS](#)  
SUBJECT: GWOT: BIOMETRICS AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE IN SAUDI  
ARABIA

RIYADH 00000347 001.2 OF 002

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PLEASE CANCEL RIYADH 347 AND ALL ASSOCIATED MCNS. POST  
REGRETS ANY INCONVENIENCE CAUSED. CABLE WILL BE RESENT  
UNDER NEW MRN.

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soft-cover booklets for their primary identification in Saudi  
Arabia, though diplomats are issued the hard-plastic card  
version.

17. (SBU) Saudi Arabia has recently begun implementing  
separate fingerprinting systems for citizens obtaining  
passport services and for illegal immigrants prior to  
deportation. The deportee fingerprint system is linked to the  
National Information Center (NIC).

18. (C) The NIC is based in Riyadh, under the authority of  
the Ministry of Interior. They are the repository of matters  
relating to the Saudi national interest and has a function,  
at least in part, similar to that of our own Terrorist  
Screening Center. The use of fingerprinting for passports is  
new and quite limited, but authorities hope to expand the  
local database over the next five years. There is an interest  
in developing facial recognition and iris-scan technologies  
in the future, budget and resource constraints permitting.

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Identifying Appropriate Partners  
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19. (S/NF) Cooperation between Saudi authorities and USG  
elements is strong. Cooperation and liaison exchange between  
the Ministry of Interior's "Mubahith" internal intelligence  
service and our own service is particularly strong. Where  
needed, requests for additional information sharing would  
generally best be routed through these existing channels.  
OBERWETTER